

GFMD Thematic Workshop on GFMD's contribution to the GCM

GCM Cluster 2: Addressing drivers of migration, including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crises, through protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution

6 September 2017, 10:30-12:30
Hotel Savoyen – Olympia Mancini 1A

1. The Working Session on Addressing drivers of migration was chaired by **Ambassador Evan P. Garcia**, Permanent Representative of Philippines to the UNOG. The GCM rapporteur, **Ambassador Eduard Gnesa**, GFMD 2011 Chair, gave an insight on the report. **Mr. Lukas Gehrke**, Director of Policy, Research & Strategy of ICMPD, served as an expert rapporteur and summarized the discussions at the end of session.
2. In setting the tone of the discussions, **Ambassador Garcia** emphasized that 90% of migrants are moving due to socio-political and environment factors, while only 10% are refugees fleeing persecution, human rights abuses and conflicts. Thus, majority of migrants move in a safe, orderly and regular manner. The Chair pointed out the complexity of the push and pull factors of migration, which are often the combined results of economic opportunities, underdevelopment, poverty and/or climate change. Mainstreaming migration into the development planning in countries of origin and in the social-economic policies in countries of destination is one way to address these complex challenges. Ambassador Garcia reiterated the commitment of the Philippines to this end, as well as its involvement in different initiatives, including the MICIC Initiative, the Sendai Framework, the Nansen Initiative, building capacity at the local level and enhancing national disaster risk reduction plans.

Overview on the GFMD Reports' Chapter on GCM Cluster 2

3. **Mr. Eduard Gnesa** shared about the efforts made by the Ad hoc working group on the 2030 Agenda and GCM in preparing the GFMD's draft report, which highlights two sets of issues: First, it is important to talk about combating the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement, and not the root causes of migration per se. Second, addressing vulnerability and long-term needs of migrants in crisis situations would entail promoting greater coherence at all levels of decision making, involving development actors in the early stage of crisis intervention, and/or creating temporary protection and legal channels in case of emergency evacuation.
4. Mr. Gnesa noted the specific interlinkages of this topic with the SDGs. He shared his views on how the GCM can advance the implementation of standards, namely on target 11.5 on decreasing the direct economic losses due to disasters; on target 11.8 on increasing the number of cities implementing integrated policies on inclusion and disaster risk management; on target 13.1, 13.2, 13.3 and 13.b on strengthening resilience to climate hazards, integrating climate change measures into national policies and finally on generating awareness about the drivers of migration.

Question 1: How can the GCM facilitate sustainable implementation of commitments in international standards and frameworks related to the topics covered by this thematic cluster?

5. Many participants suggested to take into consideration the role of the GFMD and previous discussions on climate change, disaster displacement and crisis situations, with specific references to the Roundtable 2.2 “Protecting migrants in all situations” during the 2016 GFMD Dhaka Summit, the Roundtable 2.1 “Moving beyond emergencies” in the Berlin Summit, and the Rabat Workshop on Climate Change and Human Mobility. There was a general recognition that the GCM should be rooted in existing standards and should draw on the good practices and the available collective wisdom, including, but not limited to the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework, the MICIC Initiative and the Sutherland report.
6. In order to promote ambitious but practical outcomes and build upon what has already been achieved, there was a call for strong international cooperation to find common solutions and approaches and promote more focused discussions. Views were held that the GFMD framework could contribute to this end. In addition, the need to avoid duplication was underlined; in this regard, the international community should strive to ensure that various initiatives operate in mutually reinforcing ways.
7. Member states agreed that the GCM is not the end but a step towards the realization of the SDGs. The SDGs provide guiding principles and serve as the overriding framework for promoting safe, orderly and regular migration. This calls for strong links between the 2030 Agenda and the GCM processes.
8. Participants emphasized the existing commitments and principles, including non-refoulement, non-criminalization of migrants and provision of consular access to migrants. Moreover, they stressed that migration should be seen as an adaptation strategy in the context of environmental degradation and climate change. In light of this, countries were encouraged to anticipate strategies, processes and mechanisms for disaster displaced persons.
9. The discussion also stressed that management of migration requires medium-term and long-term approaches. The management of migration, especially forced migration in regional corridors, should be a focal area for the GCM in the medium term. But the solution in the long run is development – both at the macro level and, after humanitarian and emergency assistance, through recovery, reconstruction and sustainable rehabilitation efforts that enhance the resilience of communities.

Question 2: How can the GCM further advance relevant recommendations and good practices shared within the GFMD and affirmed in several UN documents?

10. In order to operationalize the above-mentioned principles, participants stressed the existence of concrete outputs, techniques, tools and governance structures. Specific attention was given to the MICIC guidelines in providing access to consular assistance as key elements and building capacity tools for the first responders. Secondly, the Nansen Initiative and its Protection Agenda provide guidelines to address the challenges raised by displacement due to disasters and climate change. They provide a broad set of good practices that can be used by countries and humanitarian actors to guarantee the effectiveness of the protection and assistance. In that regard, the efforts of the Platform for Disaster Displacement were recognized for the effective implementation of the agenda.
11. Participants also recognized temporary protection mechanisms applied in the context of displacement related to disaster as concrete examples and elements that should be incorporated as recommendations in the GCM.
12. The session encouraged the whole-of-migration-cycle approach as a proper way to reduce risks faced by migrants. Participants pointed out that this can be done by preparing all aspects on the process, by setting-up pre- and post-departure information procedures for migrants, by including migrants in disaster risk reduction planning and framework, and by empowering the migrants as agents rather than just victims.

13. In order to facilitate the management of migration by the governments, the session highlighted the need to include the migrants themselves in the discussion. In parallel to the empowerment of migrants, there was a call to enhance the capacity of front-line actors and local authorities.

Question 3: Which current challenges, if any, are not yet sufficiently covered by existing international standards and frameworks and therefore require specific emphasis by the GCM?

14. There was a positive recognition that man-made crisis was now discussed in this Forum. Although this is not the designated arena for, some delegates stressed the need to look more deeply at the resolution of conflicts, through serious and genuine international efforts.

15. Participants acknowledged the difficulty to assess the phenomenon of climate-induced migration and the gaps in the existence for accurate, comprehensive and comparable data. Cooperation efforts will be needed in that perspective.

Points of Convergence	Practical Recommendations	Challenges / Issues for further discussion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDGs as a framework to identify causes and drivers of migration; • MICIC and Nansen Agenda as concrete sources of guidance; • GFMD as a platform to distil existing international frameworks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-stakeholder and multi-level cooperation to address key drivers of migration; • Whole of migration cycle approach to address different phases of crisis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repetition of existing standards • Highly academic discussions, unpredictability of natural disasters